Division.	Details of prosecutions for offences by fire.						Remarks.
	Serial number of fire.	Acres burnt.	Character of offences (whether careless or intentional.)	Whether acquitted or convicted.	Section of law under which convicted.	Amount of punishment.	
Northern Division, Kánara ...	1 (35)*	3	Intentional.	...	...	...	Pending trial at close of the year.
Southern do. ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Western do. ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Belgaum	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Dhárwár	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Bijápur	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Kolába	7 (3, 7—9, 11—13)*	55	Careless.	...	...	...	Do. do. * Serial numbers in the registers.
Ratnágiri	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Total ...	8	58	...	...	...	...	

85. The origins of fires and the acreage burnt are as given below in Form III prescribed by the same Resolution :—

Division.	(A). Fires caused by accident or through carelessness in burning fire-lines.		(B) Fires entering the Forests by crossing exterior fire-traces.		(C) Fires beginning inside the reserve or fire-traced area.																Total (A), (B) and, (C).	
					Owing to carelessness or accident.						By intentional Firing.								Causes unknown.			
					By workmen employed in the Forests, by purchasers of Forest produce and by Yah-cutters.		By villagers, travellers, &c., passing through the Forests.		By railway engines.		By lightning or by fire-balloons.		In order to obtain new grass.		In order to turn out game or to reduce cover.		Maliciously fired.		Total.				
	Number of fires.	Area burnt in acres.	Number of fires.	Area burnt in acres.	Number of fires.	Area burnt in acres	Number of fires.	Area burnt in acres.	Number of fires.	Area burnt in acres.	Number of fires.	Area burnt in acres.	Number of fires.	Area burnt in acres.	Number of fires.	Area burnt in acres.	Number of fires.	Area burnt in acres.	Number of fires.	Area burnt in acres.	Number of fires.	Area burnt in acres.	Number of fires.	Area burnt in acres.
Northern Division, Kánara ...	...	...	4	865	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	3	...	...	...	...	1	3	56	49,163	61	50,031
Southern do. ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	1	165	11	9,605	12	9,770	69	28,304	81	38,074
Western do. ...	1	3	...	...	1	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	70	978	72	933
Belgaum	...	...	68	4,735	...	...	60	1,530	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	128	6,265
Dhárwár	1	94	17	2,668	...	...	53	5,189	3	102	...	...	...	...	7	1,045	...	...	7	1,045	5	8,754	80	17,852
Bijápur	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Kolába	2	8	22	264	1	4	42	539	2	37	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	61	2,361	130	3,213
Ratnágiri	...	...	2	12	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	13
Total ...	4	105	113	8,544	2	6	156	7,259	5	139	...	...	1	3	8	1,210	11	9,605	20	10,818	261	89,560	561	116,431

86. It will be seen from the above table that causes as to the origin of fires were not known in nearly 50 per cent. of the number of fires ; and that more than 25 per cent. of the fires were due to carelessness on the part of villagers or travellers passing through the forest, fires that are difficult to guard against owing to rights of way and to water accorded to villagers.

(3).—*Regulation of Grazing and Protection from Cattle.*

87. The area closed to all animals amounts to 659 square miles, to browsers 1,266, and that open to all animals to 3,321. Details of the areas closed and left open, respectively, in each of the several divisions, are given in Appendix 54.

88. The area closed to browsers during the year, shows an increase of 364 square miles. The total area closed to all animals, in the Circle, also increased by 64 square miles, but there was a decrease of 12 and 3 square miles in Dhárwár and Bijápur, respectively.

89. In Kánara, the grazing regulations remained unchanged.

90. The rules published by Government in their Resolution No. 3595, dated 23rd May 1890, were in operation in all the other Divisions of the Circle, except Bijápur, where the Kánara grazing system was introduced during the year by Government Resolution No. 9534, dated 28th November 1896.

91. Except plantations and cuttings, the whole of the forests in Kánara, Belgaum, Dhárwár and Bijápur were thrown open for free-grazing to the cattle from the famine-affected-districts in accordance with the orders contained in Government Resolution No. 8939, dated 11th November 1896, and the Kánara forests all along the Dhárwár frontier were resorted to by large herds of such cattle.

92. The number of cattle impounded during the year under report and the year before, is given below:—

Division.	Number of Animals impounded during 1895-96.			Number of Animals impounded during 1896-97.		
	From open Forests.	From closed Forests.	Total.	From open Forests.	From closed Forests.	Total.
Northern Division, Kánara ...	...	122	122	...	160	160
Southern do. ...	18	932	950	...	941	941
Western do. ...	4	100	104	32	93	125
Belgaum	1,235	3,257	4,492	5,166	3,106	8,272
Dhárwár	3,144	2,043	5,187	2,682	1,793	4,475
Bijápur	578	944	1,522	149	454	603
Kolába	1,204	846	2,050	650	855	1,505
Ratnágiri	...	84	84	...	93	93
Total ...	6,183	8,328	14,511	8,679	7,495	16,174

93. For the whole Circle, the result is an increase of 1,663 head of cattle, as compared with the number impounded in 1895-96.

94. The large number of impoundings in Southern Kánara, is ascribed by the Divisional Forest Officer to the cattle of professional graziers (*Dhangar Gowlies*) found grazing in the closed areas of Mundgod.

95. In the Belgaum Division, there has been a considerable increase in the number of animals impounded from open forest (5,166 against 1,235 of 1895-96) owing, it is reported, to the orders under which the forests were to be thrown open for free-grazing to outside cattle from the famine-affected area, not having been received by the Divisional Forest Officer until late in November 1896.

96. In Dhárwár and Bijápur, the number of cattle impounded has decreased by 712 and 919, respectively, owing to the general relaxation of rules consequent on famine. The 149 animals found grazing without permits in the open forests of Bijápur are reported to have been impounded before orders for free-grazing were issued. The decrease in the number of impoundings is also ascribed to the fact that a large number of cattle was sold by the owners, many died and some were removed to other districts on account of the scarcity of fodder.

97. The comparatively small increase or decrease in other divisions appears to call for no remarks.

98. The number of cattle covered by passes for open area that was found grazing in, and impounded from, closed forests, is as given below :—

Northern Division, Kánara	...	...
Southern do.	...	...
Western do.	...	93
Belgaum ...	...	1,755
Dhárwár ...	...	289
Bijápur ...	...	...
Kolába ...	...	69
Ratnágiri ...	...	...
Total	...	2,206

99. The fact must, however, be noted that a much larger number of cattle than are impounded enter the closures. Even when they are caught, it is impossible for one or two guards to drive all of them to the pound and a good many consequently escape.

100. Wire-fencing is a good means of protection against cattle. A start was made in this direction during the year, in Kolába, and 511 reels of galvanized barbed-wire were obtained on indent from England, for fencing in some of the exploited *coupes* of 1896-97.

101. To make the closures effective, measures are being taken to introduce wire-fencing in Dhárwár and Bijápur and an indent for the required quantity of barbed wire will be submitted to Government in due course.

(*c*).—Improvement of Forest Growth.

(*1*).—*Natural Reproduction.*

(1).—By Seed.

102. *Kánara.*—Owing to the early cessation, and in some parts to the bad distribution of the rains, natural reproduction by seed was not as successful as could be expected, although other conditions were naturally favourable in the district. But notwithstanding these disadvantages to combat with, continued measures taken during the past years to prevent fires and cattle from doing any appreciable amount of damage to the pick of the forests, had their own result and the Divisional Officer, Northern Division, Kánara, reports that natural reproduction was on the whole "very fairly successful," and that it "bids fair to be much more successful in future." In the Southern Division it was "fair" and in the Western Division "not unsatisfactory."

103. In the teak-bearing tracts in the Belgaum Division, conditions were favourable for reproduction by seed.

104. Owing to the failure of rain during the latter part of the monsoon natural reproduction by seed did not fare well in Dhárwár; and in Bijápur, the season was almost entirely rainless, and, therefore, reproduction was very unsatisfactory. In Kolába, it has been very slow on account of fires and trespass by cattle. In Ratnágiri, seedlings from fallen seeds have come up in places where the soil is suitable for them to germinate, and the slopes are slowly but steadily becoming covered with vegetation, but on the whole, reproduction by seed there is far from satisfactory.

(2).—By Coppice.

105. Coppice-growth is reported to have been satisfactory throughout the Circle except in a comparatively few cases in which the soil, or the stools, have become exhausted.

(*2*).—*Artificial Regeneration.*

106. The following areas are reported to have been treated under artificial regeneration in the *Northern Division of Kánara* :—

Supa Working-Circle.—Girdling No. II Compartments in Series IV and VIII (9,020 acres).

Gund Working-Circle.—Girdling No. II Compartments in Series X and XI (4,220 acres).